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➤BOOK † NOTICES.◀

SWETE'S SEPTUAGINT.*

The question of an Old Testament text is, with scholars, both tantalizing and important; tantalizing because of the apparent impossibility of securing within the present generation anything at all complete or satisfactory, important because so long as the text is confessedly so imperfect, critical results in many lines are unattainable. This is the great problem; but one of the many sub-problems, of less importance only because it is a sub-problem, is that which relates to the text of the Septuagint, which, as agreed by all, is the most valuable help in determining the Hebrew text. Before any work of much value can be done upon the latter, the text of the former must be settled.

The great primary editions of the Septuagint have been 1) that of the Complutensian Polyglott (1514–1517), 2) that of the Aldine press, but a few months later, 3) the Roman or Sixtine edition of 1587, and based on the Codex Vaticanus, and 4) the Alexandrian, issued by the Oxford Press 1707–1720. Of secondary editions special value is assigned by our edition to the work of Holmes and Parsons (1798–1827) not for the value of its text, but for the textual notes, and to the various editions of Tischendorf (1850, 1856, 1860, 1869, 1875, 1880, 1887, the last two under Nestle).

The present edition is a smaller or manual edition issued with as little delay as possible, a more complete edition being intended to follow. The former “confines itself to the variations of a few of the most important uncial codices already edited in letterpress or facsimile.” In the latter, “it is proposed to give the variations of all the Greek uncial MSS., of select Greek cursive MSS., of the more important versions and of the quotations made by Philo and the earlier and more important ecclesiastical writers.” This edition, containing the materials for a critical use of the Septuagint, is, of course, far superior to anything which has hitherto been offered the student both in quality and price. Tischendorf's, edition, up to this time the authority, like the American edition of Gesenius' Lexicon, is one which the author, if he were now living, would refuse to recognize as his own.

ABRAHAM: HIS LIFE AND TIMES.†

The fifteen chapters of the book take up the following subjects: 1) Abram's birth-place; 2) first call; 3) second call; 4) the promised land; 5) Egypt; 6) sep-

* THE OLD TESTAMENT IN GREEK ACCORDING TO THE SEPTUAGINT, edited by the Syndics of the University Press, by Henry Barclay Swete, D. D., Honorary Fellow of Gonville and Caius College. Vol. I Genesis–IV Kings. Cambridge, at the University Press, 1887. 8vo. Pp. 1–827. New York: Macmillan & Co. Price, \$2.25.

† ABRAHAM: HIS LIFE AND TIMES. By Rev. William J. Deane, M. A., Rector of Ashen, Essex. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. 12mo. Pp. 179. Price \$1.00.